the Alliance for Rail Competition, Consumers United for Rail Equity, the American Chemistry Council, the National Industrial Transportation League, Edison Electric Institute, the National Association of Wheat Growers, and the National Barley Growers Association.

I join with my colleagues from both sides of the aisle, in introducing this bill. Together, we will work to ensure passage of this important legislation.

SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF NATIONAL HEPATITIS B AWARENESS WEEK

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 4, 2005

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to share my support for House Resolution 250, Supporting the Goals and Ideals of a National Hepatitis B Awareness Month. Chronic liver disease is the tenth leading cause of death in the United States, so it is imperative for the Congress and federal government to become more focused on Hepatitis viruses.

Viral hepatitis represents a disease entity caused by at least 5 unrelated viruses which attack the cells of the liver. The majority of viral hepatitis cases are due to the hepatitis A virus (HAV), hepatitis B virus (HBV), or hepatitis C virus (HCV). Infection with hepatitis B virus can produce a chronic infection which may lead to death from chronic liver disease.

Studies show that 4.9 percent of Americans have been infected with HBV, of whom 1.25 million are chronically infected. The expected direct medical costs associated with acute and chronic HBV infection for one U.S. birth cohort are estimated to be $81.9 million. The consequences of hepatitis-induced chronic liver disease may not become apparent until decades after infection.

Using the national data, it is estimated that more than 931,000 New Yorkers have been infected with HBV, with 46,550 of these persons chronically infected. An estimated 342,000 New Yorkers have been infected with HCV, with 237,500 of these persons chronically infected. Hepatitis B and hepatitis C are complex infections that have significant epidemiologic, social and medical impact.

In addition to the potential financial burden to the state and the Nation, viral hepatitis can have a tremendous impact on the lives of many New Yorkers. As a result, the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) identified the need for a comprehensive, collaborative and organized approach by partners across New York to address the public health problems associated with viral hepatitis.

On June 3 and 4, 2003, the NYSDOH, along with partners and stakeholders from across the state, participated in the Viral Hepatitis Strategic Planning Summit. This summit was to be the beginning of the development of a statewide viral hepatitis strategic plan. The two-day meeting began with presentations by representatives from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the NYSDOH. Then the participants were divided into four focus areas: (1) Prevention, (2) Education, (3) Surveillance and Research, and (4) Medical and Case Management. The focus areas served as the central elements of the strategic plan. By the end of the 2-day meeting, each focus area identified 3 to 5 priority issues, which were then developed into long-term goals, each with strategies and 5-year action plans for meeting the goals.

On Wednesday, May 11, at the Millennium Hilton, 55 Church St. in New York City, the Aim for the B campaign will conduct a media event to call greater awareness to hepatitis B. Speakers and panelists for the New York event include confirmed representatives from the Mayor's office, Hepatitis B Foundation, Weill Cornell Medical Center and Charles B. Wang Community Health Center. There will be other community events from coast-to-coast the week of May 9, and I salute those associated with this outreach and prevention effort.

Mr. Speaker, thank you for the chance to convey my unity of support for House Resolution 250 and for the impressive awareness efforts being conducted nationwide to address hepatitis B.

IN RECOGNITION OF MR. RICHARD H. WEINER ON THE OCCASION OF HIS INSTALLATION AS THE 107TH PRESIDENT OF THE BERGEN COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION

HON. STEVEN R. ROTHMAN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 4, 2005

Mr. ROTHMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with great pleasure to honor Mr. Richard H. Weiner, the incoming President of the Bergen County Bar Association in the great state of New Jersey. Mr. Weiner will be inaugurated as the Bergen County Bar Association's 107th President on the occasion of its Annual Dinner Dance on Friday, May 6th, and I ask that my esteemed colleagues join me in recognizing his outstanding achievements on behalf of the legal profession and on behalf of the communities of northern New Jersey.

A member of the Bergen County Bar Association since 1983 and a member of its Board of Trustees for the last dozen years, Richard H. Weiner has distinguished himself in the practice of law. His leadership has been recognized by his colleagues at Aronsohn, Weiner & Salerno, P.C. of Hackensack, New Jersey, a highly regarded law firm well-known for representing many prominent banking institutions and leasing companies in countless and often highly complicated litigation matters. The Managing Partner of his firm since 1985, he has demonstrated particular expertise in commercial litigation and family law for more than two decades. Because of his peers' acknowledgment of his professional abilities and his sharp legal intellect, Richard H. Wiener currently serves as Chairman of the Legal Committee for the Eastern Association of Equipment Lessors and as a prominent member of the National Legal Committee of the Equipment Leasing Association, and has lectured extensively around the nation on behalf of both organizations on various aspects of banking law and equipment leasing.

A graduate of the University of Maryland and the Hofstra University School of Law, Richard H. Wiener has also achieved professional recognition for his thorough and meticulous legal scholarship and his impeccable professional reputation. He served a Judicial Clerkship under the Honorable Edward J. Van Tassel JSC from 1983 to 1984, and has been named to numerous leadership positions by the Bergen County Bar Association. He currently serves as Chairman of the Bench Bar Liaison Committee, as an active member of both the Civil Practice and Family Law Committees, and is a longtime member of the Bergen County Judicial Selections Committee. Previously, Richard H. Wiener was appointed Chairman of the Bergen County Ethics Committee on Fee Arbitration by the Supreme Court of the State of New Jersey, and was one of two attorneys named by the State Supreme Court to serve on the Committee on Character from 1994 to 2002. One of his most enduring legacies to the legal profession is the purchase of the building housing the Bergen County Bar Foundation's headquarters, also home to the offices of the Bergen County Bar Association, which was made possible through the tireless fundraising efforts that he helped lead along with several other prominent members of the Bar Association.

Above all, Richard H. Wiener has distinguished himself as a man dedicated to his family and his community. He, his wife Bonnie, and their beloved daughter Danielle have lived in Wyckoff, New Jersey for eleven years. In that Borough, he has devoted his time and effort to innumerable good causes. A past President of the Wyckoff Public Library Board of Trustees, Richard H. Wiener currently serves the Borough as its Traveling Softball Coordinator, an active basketball and softball coach, and as Chairman of the Wyckoff Recreation Committee. These are but a few of his many volunteer activities over the years.

Mr. Speaker, my distinguished colleagues, I ask that you join me in recognizing the professional and civic contributions of the next President of the Bergen County Bar Association, Mr. Richard H. Wiener.

''TORN FROM THE FLAG''—NEW DOCUMENTARY FILM FOR THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE 1956 HUNGARIAN REVOLUTION

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 4, 2005

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I want to call the attention of my colleagues to a new documentary film now in production dealing with the 1956 Hungarian Revolt against Soviet occupation. Entitled ''Torn from the Flag,'' the film is being prepared as part of the 2006 celebration marking the 50th anniversary of the Hungarian uprising. This film will include important archival material and recently opened files that have not been available until recently. It will also include insightful interviews with Hungarian freedom fighters, former political prisoners, secret police, and foreign citizens who participated in or witnessed the events.

On October 13, 1956, students and workers commenced a spontaneous uprising against the repressive communist dictatorship. Against all odds, they successfully took on and defeated the police and installed a new government. There were eighteen days of freedom before Soviet tanks and military forces launched a major attack on November 4 crushing, once and for all, the uprising. Some

20,000 Hungarians and 3,500 Russians died in the fighting. The defeat of the Hungarian Revolt was one of the darkest moments of the Cold War, but it was also one of the early indications that the freedom-loving peoples of Central and Eastern Europe could not be forever repressed.

The documentary takes its name from one of the most memorable images of the 1956 Hungarian Revolt. The revolutionaries cut from the center of the Hungarian tricolor flag the coat of arms of the communist People's Democratic Republic of Hungary. The flag with a hole in its center was emblematic of the Hungarian people's desire to rip out communism from their homeland, and this has been one of the most enduring symbols of the 1956 Revolution.

Like the student revolution in Tiananmen Square, China, in April 1989, where Chinese students were brutally suppressed after a massive demonstration for democratic reform, the Hungarian Revolt provided the world with sharp insights into communist tyranny. The governments of the Soviet Union in 1956 in Hungary and China in 1989 at Tiananmen Square used similar tactics in cracking down on dissidents. In my office, everyday I see a large picture of the brave Chinese student who stood boldly in front of a long row of tanks during the Tiananmen revolt. That Chinese student and the brave Hungarian revolutionaries of 1956 represent the fighting spirit of all men and women against tyranny.

The 1956 Revolution in Hungary is full of lessons and inspiration for people living under repressive regimes even today. The heroic fight of thousands of young men and women has played a crucial role in leading to the collapse of communism in Eastern Europe and in the former Soviet Union.

Mr. Speaker, I invite my colleagues to note with me the upcoming 50th anniversary of the 1956 Hungarian Revolution, to watch for the documentary ''Torn from the Flag'', and to rejoice that men and women everywhere are willing to unite in the fight, despite overwhelming odds against them, in order to free themselves from tyranny and repression.

TRIBUTE TO WYANDOTTE COUNTY/KANSAS CITY, KANSAS, MAYOR/CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER CAROL MARINOVICH

HON. DENNIS MOORE

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 4, 2005

Mr. MOORE of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, I was once talking with a group of constituents from Wyandotte County, and asked who they looked up to in Kansas City, Kansas.

A gentleman said, ''I can't say I look up to her because she is barely five feet tall, but I do admire and respect Carol Marinovich.''

As Mayor/CEO of the Unified Government of Wyandotte County and Kansas City, Kansas, Carol Marinovich established a record of achievement that inspired awe throughout the Kansas City area and beyond. Whether as a teacher, special education coordinator, or Kansas City Councilwoman, she has brought a sense of hope, pride and progress to Wyandotte County.

First elected as Mayor of the City of Kansas City in April 1995, she served as Mayor/CEO of the Unified Government since its establishment in April 1997, stepping down from that post on April 20th of this year.

During that time, Carol provided leadership in a period of unprecedented change and growth that has transformed Wyandotte County into a place with much to celebrate. She spearheaded the city/county consolidation process, taking two separate entities and bringing them together into one more effective and efficient government. House by house, she worked with neighborhood groups to reinvest in our neighborhoods. Evidence of that success is everywhere: the Mount Zion Estates, Turtle Hill, Cathedral Pointe, Mission Cliffs, Rainbow Park, Mount Carmel Place, Carmelle Estates, River's Edge East, Jersey South, Nehemiah, and the Strawberry Hill Townhomes and St. Peter/Waterway. In 2004, 500 housing permits were issued in Wyandotte County—a 40 year high. In the same year, crime dropped by 7 percent and Wyandotte County experienced the fewest murders in ten years and unemployment dropped for the first time in five years.

With Carol's guidance, downtown revitalization has been spurred by projects such as the Hilton Garden Inn with the adjacent, renovated Reardon Center, the new Board of Public Utilities building, and the federal Region VII Environmental Protection Agency headquarters. She has helped make dreams of developing western Wyandotte County a reality, where the Village West project is still expanding. Today we are all proud it is home to the Kansas Speedway, Cabelas, the Nebraska Furniture Mart, and the Great Wolf Lodge. As she left office, $1,000,000 of redevelopment projects were under construction in the city's urban core, and the mill levy had dropped 18 percent during her tenure.

In 1989, Carol became the first woman elected to the City Council of Kansas City. Six years later, she was the first woman elected Mayor of Kansas City, Kansas. During her tenure, she received the Excellence in Local Government Award from the League of Kansas Municipalities and has been recognized by Governing Magazine as one of the Public Officials of the Year in America. She was picked by Kansas City Magazine as ''Best Local Politician'' and was awarded the Excellence in Community Service Award by the Points of Light Foundation.

Mr. Speaker, I'm 6'2'' tall, but I look up to Carol Marinovich. Mayor/CEO Carol Marinovich turned our community into a place where you would want to work, shop, live and raise a family. I am proud of everything she has accomplished and even more proud to call her a friend. Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD for review by the House of Representatives an article that was carried by the Kansas City Star on the day Mayor Marinovich concluded her tenure in office.

[From the Kansas City Star, Apr. 20, 2005]

MARINOVICH LEAVING DRIVER'S SEAT

WITH KCK TRANSFORMED, MAYOR'S TERM ENDS

(By Mark Wiebe)

A bleak landscape confronted Carol Marinovich when she was elected mayor of Kansas City, Kan., in 1995: high crime, plummeting population, a crumbling retail base.

Today, violent crime has been cut in half, record numbers of housing permits are being issued, and Wyandotte County boasts the largest tourist attraction in Kansas with its Village West retail district.

One constant throughout that decade of change has been Marinovich, the former schoolteacher who once said she decided to run for mayor because ''it was my town—and it was going down the tubes.''

Tonight, Marinovich ends her political career in local government when Joe Reardon is sworn in as the Unified Government's second mayor and CEO. After 16 years in public service, she leaves behind a county that has shed its image as the area's beleaguered stepchild.

During that time, she's made countless tough decisions, but the ones she believes will shape her legacy are often overlooked in the narrative of the county's success: consolidation of the city and county governments in 1997, and neighborhood revitalization.

The latter helped Marinovich, 54, cultivate allies at the grass-roots level. Consolidation was but one issue that created political enemies for her, and some complained of her unyielding style. Even among some of her most vocal critics, though, there is a grudging respect for the change she helped usher in.

That stubbornness, supporters said, was a decided asset.

''Has she upset people? Made them mad? Yes,'' said Cindy Cash, president of the Kansas City Kansas Area Chamber of Commerce. ''When you're doing what you think is best for the community, you do run the risk. . . . But she does have the best interest of the community at heart.''

PROGRESS, NOT POLISH

Marinovich isn't a highly polished politician. Her extemporaneous moments are sometimes peppered with unfinished sentences. She is not adept at working a crowd. Put her in a cocktail party where she doesn't know anyone, she says, and ''I'd probably stay five minutes then get in my car and go home.''

The issue that secured her first political victory, to the City Council in 1989, is one that remains close to her heart: the revitalization of the city's urban neighborhoods. She kept that emphasis through her six year tenure on the council and then into the mayor's office.

''Neighborhood groups weren't heard of'' before Marinovich became mayor, said Patty Dysart, executive director of the Armourdale Renewal Association. ''I can remember five or six. But they would ride in parades and that was about it.''

Today, the county boasts more than 130 neighborhood groups, many of them active in crime watches and cleanups, reporting code violators and organizing community events.

As soon as she was elected, Marinovich established ''impact teams'' that made cleanup sweeps through neighborhoods. Such efforts demonstrated to neighborhood leaders like Dysart—tough-talking and demanding grass-roots supporters—that Marinovich meant business.

''She didn't have my respect at first,'' Dysart said. ''I just didn't think she cared, especially about Armourdale.''

Her opinion changed when Marinovich participated in an impact team and attended some of Dysart's meetings. She realized then that Marinovich was ''just quiet and shy but has this big heart.''

HARD-WON RESPECT

Despite her supporters' admiration, Marinovich leaves a city that is not entirely enamored of her. In her 2001 run against Elmer Sharp, she grabbed what many considered an unimpressive 53 percent of the vote. In this month's mayoral election, she supported former state Rep. Rick Rehorn; he lost by an 18 percent margin.

Former Unified Government Commissioner Joe Vaught, who backed Marinovich in 2001,